RESPONSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF YUKON

TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE

NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

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Department of Renewable Resources
Government of Yukon
Whitehorse, Yukon
June 1988

Resources are the key to improving our condition. But resources are also fundamental to our identity as Yukoners, and we want them used wisely and responsibly. That means sustainable use of renewable resources and careful use of non-renewable resources that will allow communities to plan a long and secure future.

Yukon Economic Strategy
April 1988

In June 1986 dozens of Yukoners sat down in a meeting hall in the mining community of Faro to consider what they wanted for the territory's future. It was the first meeting of a public process known as YUKON 2000. In the period from that Faro meeting to the closing session in Dawson City in October 1987 Yukoners discussed the various elements of the territory's economy and how to build a stronger and more diversified economy for the future.

During these discussions several clear messages came forward. One such message was the value Yukoners attached to the natural world around them. Participants in the YUKON 2000 meetings expressed the desire to develop the territory's renewable resources, but not at a rate that would deplete them. They spoke about the need for stable economic growth from non-renewable resources and the need to protect the natural environment.

The discussions and ideas expressed during YUKON 2000 process were drawn together into a Yukon Economic Strategy, released in April 1988. This strategy examines each sector of the Yukon's economy and the major industries within those sectors. It details what immediate actions are needed and what can be done into the 1990's to build the kind of economy, the kind of Yukon its residents want.

The section of The Yukon Economic Strategy dealing with the territory's natural resources clearly reflects the desire of Yukoners for sustainable economic development. In it, the Yukon government commits itself to supporting the development of the full range of natural resources. At the same time it recognizes the need for the sustainable use of renewable resources and the need for stable, long-term growth from non-renewable resources.

It also supports the maintenance of the resources required for subsistence lifestyles and the safeguarding of the Yukon's natural environment and its archaeological and historical heritage. Finally, the government commits itself to increasing the economic return to the Yukon from its resources, establishing greater territorial control over these resources and accommodating the needs and values of Yukoners in their management. These are the goals of the Yukon Economic Strategy.

At the same time as the YUKON 2000 process was underway, the Government of Yukon became involved in global and national initiatives on sustainable development. The Minister of Renewable Resources presented Yukoners' views on the wise use of their resources at international meetings, such as the World Commission on Environment and Development meeting in Edmonton and the World Conservation Strategy Conference in Ottawa, both in 1986. As a follow up to those meetings, the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers established the National Task Force on Environment and Economy, and the Yukon's Minister was named one of its members.

In conjunction with these efforts, the Minister directed the Yukon's Department of Renewable Resources to develop a conservation strategy for the territory. As this process progressed, it became clear that the conservation strategy would fit within the overall economic strategy that was to result from YUKON 2000. It would in essence represent the management plan for the development of the territory's natural resources. Hence, the Yukon Economic Strategy has endorsed the preparation of a conservation strategy that guides the sustainable development of the Yukon's renewable resources and includes programs that are complementary to the development of non-renewable resources.

In undertaking the development of a conservation strategy, one important principle was recognized: the conservation strategy would be a joint effort between government, the private sector and public interest groups. In July 1987 a Public Working Group was formed to work with the Department of Renewable Resources on this project. Since then the guiding principles, objectives and a framework for a conservation strategy have been developed.

The objectives that have been outlined for the conservation strategy reinforce and augment the goals of the Yukon Economic Strategy. The objectives state that the conservation strategy should achieve a sustainable yield for all renewable resources, the active and integrated management of resources, and a range of opportunities for their use. It should conserve and preserve the Yukon's wilderness characteristics and heritage and maintain a range of choices for lifestyle. An educational effort should be undertaken to ensure public acceptance and understanding of the principles of conservation and to promote understanding of aboriginal management practices and knowledge. Opportunities for human resource development and employment in careers compatible with conservation principles should be developed, and there should be greater local autonomy in decision making related to all aspects of the strategy. Finally, the objectives state the Yukon's resources should be used and managed in a manner that will reduce the "boom and bust" nature of the territory's economy, and legislative and institutional mechanisms should be put in place for the conservation of resources.

The Yukon Economic Strategy and the Yukon Conservation Strategy, once completed, represent two interrelated and comprehensive

plans for the achievement of environment-economy integration and sustainable development in the Yukon. But they are not the only processes that have addressed the question of conservation and development in the Yukon.

The Select Committee on Renewable Resources, which held public hearings in 17 communities in 1986, produced a report reflecting Yukoners' views on managing the territory's renewable resources. The Task Force on Northern Conservation, which brought together mining and oil and gas interests, government, the environmentalists and academics, considered how best to use and manage the resources of northern Canada. In 1985 the Yukon Caucus of the National Parks Centennial Project examined the need for natural and heritage conservation in the territory. Both the Yukon Economy Strategy and the Yukon Conservation Strategy are and will respond to these initiatives.

These public consultation exercises and others have helped shape the vision of the Yukon's future, a vision will allow for protection of the Yukon's environment, the sustainable use of its renewable resources, and the careful use of its non-renewable resources for the long-term stable economic growth of the territory.

The work that has been completed to date and anticipated for the future towards this vision has been drawn together in a response to the recommendations of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy. This detailed response is outlined on the following pages.

RESPONSE TO THE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *INFORMED DECISION MAKING*

1.1 *Government, industry, academic and other non-government organizations should develop new tools and improve existing tools which achieve more efficient and effective environment-economy integration. These tools should include consideration of, and where appropriate, application of:*

- *Analytical methodologies and techniques such as cost-benefit analysis, risk assessment, and increased use of environmental impact assessment.*

  In its Yukon Economic Strategy, the Government of Yukon has stated its commitment to supporting and encouraging development projects that provide a net economic benefit to the territory once all costs and benefits are considered.

  To this end, a development assessment process will be established to provide for the consistent review and analysis of all major development projects within the Yukon. This process will assess the developer's statements of the socioeconomic and environmental impacts and the direct and indirect costs and benefits of the development. It will be used to determine whether and how major projects will proceed.

  The development assessment process will provide for greater public input, the consolidation and reduction of regulatory requirements where possible, and a tighter schedule for decision making. It will be designed to complement the federal review process and will endeavour to integrate all other resource reviews.

  The government has also stated its commitment to encouraging greater involvement by Yukon communities in resource use decisions that affect them; this could include the provision of financial assistance to public interest intervenors in the development assessment process.

  In the future, the development assessment process will improve on tools and techniques used in the analysis of the environmental and socioeconomic implications of economic development.

- *Economic mechanisms such as contaminant charge schemes, tradeable emission/discharge rights, financial assurance and performance deposits, investment tax*

credits, credits for exceeding environmental standards, and reduced interest bonds.

It is expected such economic mechanisms will be examined during the implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy.

- *Information generation and reporting systems such as state of the environment reporting.*

  The Government of Yukon has committed itself to preparing and releasing a "State of the Yukon Resources and Environment Report" that will track major changes in the resource base and natural environment of the Yukon. Current plans call for the first such report to be released in 1990; it would then be prepared every five years. Common environmental indicators will be developed with federal departments.

- *Improved techniques for the valuation of environmental stresses and the benefits of environmental protection.*

  A major report on the utility of the Contingent Valuation Method is nearing completion. Additional research on new valuation techniques will be undertaken as resources permit.

- *Economic incentives which promote effective environmental protection by business.*

  It is expected the question of economic incentives will be examined in the development of the Yukon Conservation Strategy. A public discussion paper that has been prepared on the principles and objectives of a conservation strategy has included among suggested actions the provision of incentives to promote stable, long-term development projects based on non-renewable resources and support for government/industry research into methods of reducing the environmental impacts of non-renewable resource extraction.

1.2 Government, industry and non-government organizations should use multipartite processes to deal with specific issues, projects or programs.

The Yukon government has demonstrated a strong commitment to the multipartite approach during the YUKON 2000 planning process, which resulted in the Yukon Economic Strategy, and in the development of a Yukon Conservation Strategy, which is being prepared as a cooperative effort by the Department of Renewable Resources and a Public Working Group comprised of non-governmental organizations and industry representatives.

1.3 Various jurisdictions and economic research organizations, such as the Economic Council of Canada, should explore opportunities and pricing mechanisms for promoting efficient resource utilization and environmental quality.

The Yukon government would be interested in participating in such research projects by national agencies. The proposed Yukon Round Table will also be examining opportunities for promoting efficient resource use and environmental quality as part of its review of the Yukon Economic Strategy.

As well, several projects that promote efficient resource use and environmental quality have been undertaken and/or completed in the Yukon; one example is a woodchip burner used in the community school in Pelly Crossing. Other projects are anticipated as a result of both the economic and conservation strategies.

1.4 A system for measuring the contribution of the environment sector, including natural resources, to the national economy and national wealth should be developed, drawing upon the work of existing organizations (e.g. the Economic Council of Canada, Statistics Canada).

The Yukon government would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the development of such a national system.

At the territorial level, the Yukon's Department of Economic Development: Mines and Small Business regularly publishes the Yukon Economic Review and Outlook, which examines economic activity in the territory on an industry by industry basis, including renewable resource-based industries. This could be amended where appropriate to mesh with a national reporting system.

The government is also involved in efforts to improve how the contribution of the Yukon's natural resources and environment to the territorial economy is measured. Among these efforts is a study undertaken under the Canada/Yukon Economic Development Agreement into the value of the subsistence economy in the Yukon. A renewable resource economic project has also tested the contingent valuation method to examine the total economic value, including the existence value and the value of future generations, of a hypothetical example in the Whitehorse area. The government recognizes the need to continue work in this area, particularly with regard to the non-monetary value of resources and the environment.

1.5 Greater resources must be dedicated to cooperative research and the development of common data bases by government and industry.

The Yukon currently participates in the development of common data bases with federal government agencies in such areas as habitat protection, parks and protected areas. Statistical information on economic, socioeconomic, etc. indicators is collected and analysed by the Department of Economic Development.

1.6 *Special emphasis is required on research into and promotion of waste disposal and recyling, as well as environmental clean-up and enhancement technologies and techniques.*

The Yukon Conservation Strategy is expected to address this need.

1.7 *More research is needed on the concept of sustainable economic development and the linkages between economic development and the environment so that we can better understand those linkages and apply data and information to make better decisions.*

In its economic strategy, the Yukon government has committed itself to supporting research, including demonstration projects, into sustainable development. This research will focus on how the economy and environment are interrelated and how Yukoners can manage the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of development in a manner that secures the long-term future of the territory's economy.

Among other initiatives that are fundamentally able to improve the linkages between conservation and development are the conservation strategy and the Canada/Yukon Economic Development Agreement. This latter agreement is currently being renegotiated, and efforts are underway to secure funding for innovative environmental protection techniques.

The government recognizes that more can be done to improve and strengthen the linkages between conservation and development, and it will continue to seek and respond to opportunities to do this.

1.8 *Specific projects demonstrating environment-economy integration (projets exemplicateurs) should be developed and implemented, with multisectoral involvement, in every province/territory and at the national level.*

One of the main thrusts of the implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy will be the development of demonstration projects by government, industry and non-governmental organizations. Workshops on the conservation strategy to be held in the fall of 1988 will emphasize the planning and design of demonstration projects to meet local needs.

Demonstration projects currently underway include a cooperative effort between the Yukon government and the mining company of Curragh Resources to ensure protection for a sheep population that migrates through the area of one of the mine's ore deposits.

1.9 *Outstanding work on environment-economy integration and environmental excellence should be recognized by awards. The proposed Round Tables should make these awards annually. The Round Tables should also identify projects which successfully integrate environment and economic development, and communicate these projects to the public.*

The question of environmental excellence awards will be pursued once the Round Table is formed.

2. ***LEADERSHIP***

Government

2.1 *The First Ministers must assume a leadership role and demonstrate a commitment to environment-economy integration by:*

The Government of Yukon has and will continue to advocate as a principal objective the promotion of economic development that is environmentally sound. This has been reflected in the government's attention to the review of significant development projects both inside and outside the Yukon, including its reaction to recent and past development projects proposed for the Beaufort Sea and proposals regarding oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

- *Directing that cabinet documents and major government economic development documents and demonstrate that they are economically and environmentally sound and therefore sustainable.*

  There is currently a requirement that all Cabinet documents in the Yukon address the environmental implications of policies, programs and projects.

- *Discussing environment-economy integration at First Ministers' Conferences.*

  The Government of Yukon concurs that this subject should be discussed at First Ministers' Conference. It also suggests that this government be invited to participate in such conferences.

- *Ensuring that all levels and departments of government establish consultation processes which encourage and facilitate public involvement and influence in policy making and planning processes.*

  It is a stated objective of the Yukon government to encourage and enhance public involvement in policy making. This approach has been taken on several major initiatives related to economic and resource issues, such as YUKON 2000, the Yukon Conservation Strategy, and the Select Committee on Renewable Resources, which held public hearings in 1986 to determine Yukoners' view on the renewable resource sector.

- *Establishing formal mechanisms to hold Ministers and their departments accountable for promoting environmentally sound economic development.*

  The development assessment process, once is place, will constitute a formal mechanism for promoting environmentally sound economic development. In addition, the requirement that departments and the Cabinet address the environmental implications of programs and policies is a step towards accountability (see 2.4).

- *Developing a code of ethics and principles, including principles of prior notification and consultation, which will provide guidance on the management of environmental matters among governments in Canada.*

  It is expected this question will be considered in the development of the Yukon Conservation Strategy.

2.2 *Environment Ministers should be members of key economic development and priorities and planning committees of cabinet, or be closely associated, by appropriate mechanisms, with these committees. Where this is not already the case, it should be implemented on or before September 1988. In addition, Environment Ministers must have sufficient resources to support government initiatives on integration of environment and economy.*

Both the Departments of Renewable Resources and Economic Development: Mines and Small Business are represented on the Cabinet's economic planning committee.

The Yukon's Minister of Renewable Resources, who is responsible for environmental matters within the territorial government's jurisdiction, is a member of the Management Board of Cabinet; in the absence of a priorities and planning committee, this board, which is responsible for all major financial matters within the government, functions as the senior subcommittee of Cabinet.

2.3 Environment Ministers, through CCREM, should continue their work towards the harmonization of environmental standards and legislation and the streamlining of processes such as environmental assessment across Canada. This issue should be considered by CCREM in September 1988, and should include public and private sector consultation and involvement.

Work on the development assessment process in the Yukon, mentioned above (see 1.1), will involve discussions with the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office (FEARO) on ways in which a territorial assessment review process can be co-ordinated with the federal process.

The Public Working Group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy has endorsed as a suggested action for the strategy the integration of environmental assessment processes into one unified, comprehensive and simplified process.

The Yukon government supports the continued discussion of this topic at meetings of CCREM as well as full membership for this government.

2.4 All Ministers must become directly responsible and accountable for the environmental and economic consequences of their policies, legislation and programs. This can be accomplished, in part, by the following activities and mechanisms:

- *Ensuring that all government processes for screening, review and evaluation of economic development projects include both socio-economic and environmental criteria.*

  The development assessment process will include both environmental and socioeconomic criteria as well as the consideration of impacts on cultural and heritage resources.

- *Ensuring that every major report on economic development, and every related cabinet document, demonstrates that the proposal or activity is economically and environmentally sound.*

  As mentioned above (see 2.1), all Cabinet documents now must include a section on the environmental implications of the proposal. Although this provision does not in itself require departments to demonstrate that a project or proposal is environmentally sound, it is designed to make departments cognizant of environmental implications and promotes the consideration of mitigative measures.

- *Ensuring that all government programs which give funding or loan guarantees to industry are conditional on meeting environmental standards.*

- Although there is not yet a comprehensive system, individuals/organizations applying for assistance under such programs as the Canada/Yukon Economic Development Agreement must satisfy environmental concerns raised by representatives on the management and technical committees reviewing applications under the various subagreements.

- *Meeting regularly to discuss environment-economy integration.*

  Given the prominence of the economic strategy and the conservation strategy in government planning, the Cabinet regularly discusses topics related to environment-economy integration; this is expected to continue.

- *Taking specific steps to open environmental, resource and economic development policy making and planning to greater public input.*

  YUKON 2000 and the Public Working Group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy are examples of public input in resource and economic development policy making and planning.

  As another example, a land use planning process is now being put in place in the Yukon, based on an agreement reached with the federal government in October 1987. The Yukon government has stated a commitment to encourage full public participation in the creation of land use plans for long-term land use. The regional land use commissions to be set up will consist of laypeople who represent community, aboriginal and other public interests.

  These examples illustrate the Yukon government's commitment to open and public processes related to environmental, resource and economic development policy making and planning, a commitment that is repeatedly made in the Yukon Economic Strategy.

- *Including methods for incorporating environmental assessment in all federal-provincial economic development agreements.*

  The Canada/Yukon Economic Development Agreement is currently being renegotiated. The Government of Yukon is hopeful that funding will be provided under the new agreement for innovative environmental protection techniques.

- *Developing federal-provincial agreements directed specifically at sustainable economic development.*

The current work towards the development of a Forest Development Agreement, for example, will stress sustainable development.

Industry

Given that this section deals with recommended actions to be taken by industry, it would be inappropriate for the Government of Yukon to respond to each of these specifically. It should, however, state that it is committed to working with Yukon industries to encourage and enhance sustainable development in the territory. An expression of this commitment can be found in the involvement of industry in such public processes as YUKON 2000 and the Public Working Group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy.

3. *ROUND TABLES*

3.1 Each province and territory should form a multisectoral Round Table on Environment and Economy to bring existing organizations together to cooperate on environment-economy integration at the provincial and territorial levels. Members of CCREM, in consultation with their cabinet colleagues, should take the initiative to form the Round Tables. The Chairperson of each Round Table should be appointed by and report to the First Minister of the jurisdiction in which it is formed. The Round Tables should be fully operational in every province and territory by September.

The Yukon Economic Strategy has endorsed regular round table meetings of industry, government, aboriginal organizations and public interest groups to discuss resource policies, opportunities and anticipated developments as part of the review process of the strategy.

There are in addition several public advisory bodies currently in existence that have mandates related to sustainable development; some examples are the Yukon Economic Council, Wildlife Management Board, Public Working Group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy and the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. Their functions will be integrated, to some extent, on environment/economy issues through the round table meetings outlined above.

3.2 Concurrent with the formation of provincial and territorial Round Tables, a national Round Table should be formed from representatives of these Round Tables, with additional members added from the federal cabinet and national non-government organizations, labour, academic and business association as appropriate. The Chairperson of the national

Round Table should be appointed by and report to the Prime Minister.

The Government of Yukon supports the creation of a national Round Table comprising representatives of provincial and territorial Round Tables and the additional membership outlined above. It further suggests that in choosing these additional members the regional nature of Canada be reflected and members be drawn from as broad a regional base as possible.

4. *CONSERVATION STRATEGIES*

4.1 Provincial and territorial governments should assume responsibility for the coordination and development of conservation strategies in their jurisdictions.

The Yukon is in the process of developing a conservation strategy; this project has been undertaken by the Department of Renewable Resources and a Public Working Group, which consists of representatives from a variety of public interest groups and individuals interested in resource management.

The Department is also assisting the Vuntat Gwich'in Tribal Council with the preparation of a conservation strategy for the community of Old Crow; this will be one of the first local strategies for an indigenous community in the world.

As part of its conservation strategy initiative, the Government of Yukon will underline and emphasize the legitimacy and viability of traditional harvesting activities, including subsistence hunting and trapping.

The department is also contributing to the Arctic Marine Conservation Strategy, sponsored by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and to preliminary work on the Inuit Regional Conservation Strategy under the auspices of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) and a subarctic conservation strategy being developed by Indigenous Survival International (ISI). The Government is providing indirect funding to this latter initiative and is participating in activities linked to it.

As a member of the Working Group on Northern Conservation Strategies, which consists of representatives from the two territorial governments, the federal departments of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada, ICC and ISI, the Yukon government is assisting with building linkages between the various conservation initiatives in northern Canada and the circumpolar North to provide both a northern and circumpolar

perspective on sustainable development. It is expected that these various initiatives will be well advanced by 1990 and the Working Group will be in a position to issue a substantial progress report.

4.2 CCREM, in consultation with industry and non-government organizations, should prepare a compendium of Canadian experiences in developing conservation strategies by September 1988. The compendium will aid jurisdictions in working out procedures and protocols for the development and integration of conservation strategies.

The Government of Yukon supports and is contributing to the preparation of such a compendium.

4.3 In the next two years, provincial and territorial government should organize workshops and seminars on conservation strategies, with progress to be reviewed at a major National Conference on Sustainable Development in 1989 or 1990.

The Department of Renewable Resources, as a member of the Working Group on Northern Conservation Strategies, and the Banff School of Management co-sponsored a conference entitled "Advancing Sustainable Development through Northern Conservation Strategies" in February 1988; it brought together delegates from across Canada and elsewhere to review the current status of conservation strategies in northern Canada, to develop a framework for northern conservation, and to prepare an agenda for the preparation of a coordinated strategy for the circumpolar region.

In conjunction with a meeting of the Working Group on Northern Conservation Strategies in late 1987, the Department of Renewable Resources hosted a seminar in Whitehorse on conservation strategy initiatives in the North; it was designed for members of the Public working Group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy and officials from a variety of territorial and federal departments involved in environmental, resource and economic development policy making.

The Department of Renewable Resources and the Public Working Group on the Yukon Conservation Strategy will also be holding a series of workshops in the fall of 1988 with a variety of public interests groups, government officials, and the Yukon public to design the final shape of the Yukon strategy.

4.4 Every province and territory should have a conservation strategy in place by 1992. A national conservation strategy should be prepared which integrates the provincial and territorial strategies and links then to the international scene. This work should be presented by Canada at the U.N.

global conference on environment and development proposed by the World Commission on Environment and Development.

The Yukon Conservation Strategy is expected to be completed in early 1989. This government supports the integration of territorial and provincial strategies into a national strategy for sustainable development. The work of the Working Group on Northern Conservation Strategies will provide a substantial contribution to such a national strategy in reflecting the concerns and issues of a major area of the country.

4.5 Non-government organizations and industry should:

- *Participate in the planning, design and implementation of the public involvement component of developing conservation strategies.*

  As indicated above, there is a Public Working Group working with the Department of Renewable Resources on the development of a conservation strategy for the Yukon. It consists of representatives of a wide range of appropriate groups in the territory: Yukon Outfitters Association, Yukon Trappers Association, Federation of Yukon Wilderness Outfitters, Yukon Fish and Game Association, Yukon Science Institute, Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, Yukon Historical and Museums Association, Curragh Resources, Yukon Federation of Labour, Council for Yukon Indians, Association of Yukon Communities, Ducks Unlimited, and Yukon Conservation Society. There are as well several individuals involved in the natural resource sector.

  This group has been fundamentally involved in the drafting of principles, objectives and a framework for the conservation strategy. This material, which has been fashioned into a public discussion paper, will be the focal point of workshops held in the fall of 1988 with Yukon communities, public interest groups, Indian bands and the public at large.

- *Conduct and participate in workshops, seminars and annual meetings focusing on components of the conservation strategy appropriate to their organization.*

  Member of the Public Working Group will have a significant role in the workshops scheduled for the fall.

- *Be prepared to develop briefs or discussion papers about specific aspects of sustainable development, as part of policy development processes.*

It is expected that the Public Working Group will be involved in work of this nature during the course of the development of the conservation strategy.

- *Provide assistance and advice regarding the coordination and integration of resource management across sectors and political jurisdictions.*

  Because the Public Working Group is composed of individuals and groups that represent a wide range of resource users, considerable attention has been paid to date on the need for integrated resource use policies and conflict resolution mechanisms.

  As a final note, it should be noted that to the greatest extent possible, the Public Working Group will be encouraged to actively participate in the implementation of the conservation strategy and with various demonstration projects.

5. *INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES*

5.1 Canada should show leadership in the development of international programs by carrying out projects which demonstrate the environment-economy link. (For example, projects on forest, water or soil management; effects on climate change.)

The Yukon government has been involved in several international initiatives linked to sustainable development. It has, for example, contributed to world-wide efforts to bolster the fur industry. It has lobbied the American Congress in an effort to prevent oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Alaska, a move that could threat the Porcupine Caribou Herd that migrates between Alaska, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. It has also participated on the international stage in the Pacific salmon talks, important for the conservation and preservation of salmon stocks in the Yukon River, which has the largest chinook salmon run in Canada. A bison reintroduction program may eventually lead to commercial and recreational harvest of this species. As been indicated, demonstration projects will be a key component of the implementation of the Yukon Conservation Strategy.

5.2 In the global discussion on sustainable development initiated by the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, Canada should share its experiences with the world community on how to integrate environmental and economic decision making.

The Yukon government would be willing to contribute the experiences the territory gains to such a national effort.

5.3 *Canada should explore and promote mechanisms to ensure that environmentally sound economic development is an important component in international discussions and negotiations dealing with development and trade. Canada should also ensure that each international development project in which it participates is environmentally and economically sustainable.*

The Porcupine Caribou Management Board and the international board for the herd's management provide an opportunity to address environmental-economic issues. Other transboundary resource management issues (e.g. salmon) need to be negotiated with Alaska.

The existing Working Group on Northern Conservation Strategies is working towards the development of a circumpolar conservation strategy in which the participation of all circumpolar countries will be encouraged.

5.4 *Canada should ensure that its representatives on multilateral development bodies strive to have environmental and economic sustainability built into the policies and procedures of these organizations.*

The Yukon government supports this recommendation.

5.5 *Canada should provide support to the recommendation of the World Commission on Environment and Development that there be a U.N. global conference on environment and development.*

The Yukon government supports such a conference.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION

6.1 *CCREM, in cooperation with the Task Force and the proposed Round Table should design and implement a major communications/public participation program to promote understanding and initiate a national dialogue on the importance of environment-economy integration. This program should be jointly designed and supported by government, industry and non-government organizations and should include two major events:*

- *1989 or 1990 being designated the Year of the Environment in Canada, with sustainable economic development as the central theme, and*
- *CCREM hosting a major National Conference on Sustainable Development in 1989 or 1990.*

The Yukon government is prepared to support and participate in the educational intiative outlined. It suggests that the question of funding and the scope of such a program need to be addressed.

In conjunction with the development of the Yukon Conservation Strategy, the Department of Renewable Resources with the assistance of the Public Working Group is undertaking a major campaign aimed at building public awareness of and support for the strategy and conservation principles. This campaign will include a multi-media display, a video/slide presentation, the release of a discussion paper outlining the principles, objectives and a framework for the conservation strategy, and the development of a public lecture series on conservation/development topics. These communication tools will explain the conservation strategy and its aims and the meaning of and the principles behind terms such as "sustainable development."

6.2 *CCREM members, in concert with education ministers and the Round Tables, should design an action plan to substantially upgrade environmental education. Special attention should be given to the elementary and junior high levels. Environmental economics and, in particular, the concept of sustainable economic development, should be incorporated into high school and undergraduate studies.*

The Yukon government supports such an educational effort and is pursuing the development of suitable programs in the territory. A report entitled "An Assessment of Environmental and Conservation Education in Yukon" was completed in April 1987. As a part of the follow-up to this report, the Departments of Education and Renewable Resources introduced "Project Wild", an environmental and conservation education program sponsored in this country by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, as a pilot project in Yukon schools during the latter part of the 1987-88 school year. It will be evaluated at the end of the current school year and a decision made on whether to introduce it as a supplemental education program.

In addition, Yukon College is developing a northern studies program, which will include a component dealing with northern environmental issues.

7. ***FOLLOW UP***

7.1 *Each province, territory and the federal government should develop an action plan showing how it will implement the recommendations of the Task Force.*

This document constitutes the Yukon's action plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force. It will need to be updated periodically to reflect progress made on implementation.

7.2 *CCREM should extend the mandate of the Task Force until September 1988, so that the Task Force can review progress by all sectors in implementing the recommendations made in this report.*

The mandate of the Task Force was extended as requested, and the Yukon government through its membership on CCREM supported this move.

7.3 *CCREM should widely distribute the Task Force Report and invite comment and public debate on its recommendations.*

The Department of Renewable Resources has distributed the Task Force Report to all departments of the Yukon government; a Cabinet document was prepared and endorsement of the report secured.

The Minister of Renewable Resources sent the report to a range of organizations in the Yukon and offered to speak to them about its recommendations.

7.4 *CCREM should prepare an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Task Force's recommendations and their implementation. The evaluation report should be presented at the 1989 CCREM Annual Meeting.*

The Government of Yukon supports such an evaluation.